

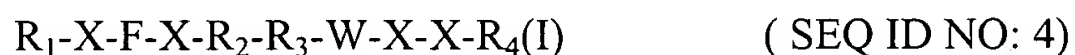
Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-26. (Canceled)

27. **(Currently amended)** An isolated peptide which binds to a DM2 protein, which peptide comprises an amino acid motif comprising at least the eight consecutive amino acids from F to R₄ of the formula



wherein

R₁ is a proline (P), leucine (L), glutamic acid (E), cysteine (C) or glutamine (Q),

X stands for any natural amino acid,

R₂ is arginine (R), histidine (H), ~~glutamic acid (E), cysteine (C), serine (S)~~, or aspartic acid (D),

R₃ is histidine (H), phenylalanine (F) or tyrosine (Y),

R₄ is phenylalanine (F), glutamine (Q) or leucine (L); and

F is phenylalanine and W is tryptophan,

and inhibits the binding of said DM2 protein to a p53 protein.

28. (Previously presented) The peptide according to claim 27 wherein the peptide binds to human DM2 (HDM2).

29. (Previously presented) The peptide according to claim 27, which is coupled to a biotin moiety.

30. (Previously presented) The peptide according to claim 27, which is a cyclic peptide.

31. (Previously presented) The peptide according to claim 27, which is a cyclic lactam.

32. (Previously presented) The peptide according to claim 27 which comprises a disulfide bond.

33. (Previously presented) The peptide according to claim 27 which comprises no more than fifteen amino acids (15 mers).

34. (Previously presented) The peptide according to claim 27 which comprises an amino acid motif selected from the group consisting of M-P-R-F-M-D-Y-W-E-G-L-N (SEQ ID NO: 6), Q-P-T-F-S-D-Y-W-K-L-L-P (SEQ ID NO: 7), and P-X-F-X-D-Y-W-X-X-L (SEQ ID NO: 8).

35. (**Currently amended**) **An isolated** peptide which comprises eight amino acids according to the formula

F-X₂-R₂-R₃-W-X₃-X₄-R₄ (Ib) (SEQ ID NO: 10)

wherein R₂ is arginine (R), histidine (H), ~~glutamic acid (E)~~, ~~cysteine (C)~~, ~~serine (S)~~, or aspartic acid (D);

R₃ is histidine (H), phenylalanine (F), or tyrosine (Y);

R₄ is phenylalanine (F), glutamine (Q) or leucine (L);

X₂ is methionine (M), isoleucine (I), threonine (T), arginine (R), alanine (A) or serine (S);

X₃ is glutamic acid (E), threonine (T), alanine (A), phenylalanine (F) or serine (S); and

X₄ is glycine (G), glutamine (Q), threonine (T), alanine (A) or aspartic acid (D).

36. **(Currently amended)** The peptide according to claim 35 comprising an amino acid motif of the formula



wherein

R₂ is arginine (R), histidine (H), ~~glutamic acid (E), cysteine (C), serine (S)~~, or aspartic acid (D);

R₃ is histidine (H), phenylalanine (F) or tyrosine (Y);

R₄ is phenylalanine (F), glutamine (Q) or leucine (L);

X₁ is arginine (R), asparagine (N), alanine (A), threonine (T), or valine (V);

X₂ is methionine (M), isoleucine (I), threonine (T), arginine (R), alanine (A), or serine (S);

X₃ is glutamic acid (E), threonine (T), alanine (A), phenylalanine (F), or serine (S); and

X₄ is glycine (G), glutamine (Q), threonine (T), alanine (A), or aspartic acid (D).

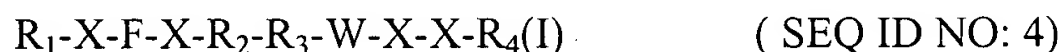
37. **(Canceled)**

38. (Previously presented) The peptide according to claim 27, wherein R₂ is aspartic acid (D).

39. (Previously presented) The peptide according to claim 35, wherein at least one of R₂, X₂, X₃, and X₄ is defined as follows: R₂ is aspartic acid (D), X₂ is methionine (M), X₃ is glutamic acid (E), and X₄ is glycine (G).

40. (Previously presented) The peptide according to claim 36, wherein at least one of R₂, X₁, X₂, X₃, and X₄ is defined as follows: R₂ is aspartic acid (D), X₁ is arginine (R), X₂ is methionine (M), X₃ is glutamic acid (E), and X₄ is glycine (G).

41. **(Currently amended)** A method for inhibiting the *in vitro* binding of a DM2 protein to a p53 protein comprising contacting said DM2 protein with a peptide *in vitro*, which peptide comprises an amino acid motif comprising at least eight consecutive amino acids of the formula



wherein

R₁ is a proline (P), leucine (L), glutamic acid (E), cysteine (C) or glutamine (Q),

X stands for any natural amino acid,

R₂ is arginine (R), histidine (H), ~~glutamic acid (E), cysteine (C), serine (S)~~, or aspartic acid (D),

R₃ is histidine (H), phenylalanine (F) or tyrosine (Y),

R₄ is phenylalanine (F), glutamine (Q) or leucine (L); and

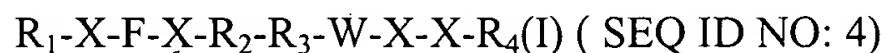
F is phenylalanine and W is tryptophan,

and inhibits the binding of said DM2 protein to a p53 protein.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41 wherein R₂ is aspartic acid (D).

43-51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently amended) A composition comprising an isolated peptide, which peptide comprises an amino acid motif comprising at least eight consecutive amino acids of the formula



wherein

R₁ is a proline (P), leucine (L), glutamic acid (E), cysteine (C) or glutamine (Q),

X stands for any natural amino acid,

R₂ is arginine (R), histidine (H), ~~glutamic acid (E), cysteine (C), serine (S)~~, or aspartic acid (D),

R₃ is histidine (H), phenylalanine (F) or tyrosine (Y),

R₄ is phenylalanine (F), glutamine (Q) or leucine (L); and

F is phenylalanine and W is tryptophan,

and inhibits the binding of said DM2 protein to a p53 protein, in admixture with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.